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BARNARD CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1944.

J.G.Paley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Assistant School Medical Officer.

BARNARD CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

45, Galgate,
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman and Gentleman,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1944.

Owing to the continuation of the War throughout the year, no active measures could be carried out. It is satisfactory to note, however, that full-scale schemes are now under consideration by the Council, for the provision of new housing, sewerage, and water supplies, and for the improvement of existing works. We are fortunate in having escaped War damage in the area, but lack of labour and materials throughout the War years has meant a continual deterioration both in property and in sanitary conditions generally, with the result that there is a great deal of leeway to be made up.

The incidence of infectious diseases was satisfactorily low during the year and there was a further fall in the number of cases of diphtheria. There was a marked increase in the Birth-rate compared with the previous year. This corresponds with an increase in the figure for England and Wales, but whether this increase is maintained, remains to be seen.

I am again indebted to Members of the Council, and to the Officials, for support and assistance in matters relating to my Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	110,069
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1944.	16,100
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books.	5,263
Rateable Value	£69,426
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£ 264

VITAL STATISTICS. Registrar General's Figures for 1944

Comparative Table of Birth Rates.

LIVE BIRTHS

This Area.		Birth Rate	England & Wales Birth Rate
Boys	145	18.5 per thousand.	17.6 per thousand.
Girls	153		

STILL BIRTHS

This Area		Still Birth Rate	England & Wales Stillbirth Rate
Boys	9	0.93 per thousand	0.50 per thousand.
Girls	6		

Comparative Table of Death Rates

This Area			England & Wales
Deaths of Infants under one year	14		Not given
Infant Mortality Rate		46 per thousand	46 per thousand.

Number of Deaths

This Area			England & Wales
Males	105		
Females	106		Not given
Death Rate		13.1 per thousand	11.6 per thousand.

Causes of Death

Intracranial Vascular Lesions.	25	Other respiratory diseases	2
Heart diseases	61	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8
Other Circulatory Diseases	12	other forms of tuberculosis	3
Cancer	32	Influenza	1
Diabetes	3	Other digestive diseases	3
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	2	Nephritis	5
Diarrhœa under 2 years	1	Premature Birth	4
Ap endicitis	1	Road Traffic Accidents	1
Bronchitis	9	Other Violent causes	6
Pneumonia	5	All other causes	27

Total 211

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year

CIVILIAN CASES

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	17	14	0
Diphtheria	6	6	0
Pneumonia	8	0	0
Er ysipelas	5	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Measles	33	0	0
Whooping Cough	13	0	0

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NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (CONTINUED)

NON CIVILIAN CASES.	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	3.
Diphtheria	3.
Erysipelas	2.
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	1.
Auterior Poliomyelites	1.
Measles	5,

It is satisfactory to note a further marked decrease in the number of cases of diphtheria notified during the year.

Total Number of Cases Notified. (Civilian)	1941	1942	1943	1944.
	21	17	13	6

Of the six cases notified during the year, only two were children under the age of 15 years, compared with five for the year 1943. Of the two cases notified both were over the age of 5 years.

TUBERCULOSIS. During the year 18 new cases were notified.

	Pulmonary	Nonpulmonary
Males	4	3
Females	9	2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME

During the year immunisation inoculations were given, under the Council's Scheme, both at the Infant Welfare Clinic, held fortnightly in the Vicarage, Barnard Castle, and also at frequent intervals at the temporary school clinic, Butterknowle. Facilities were also available at the Infant Welfare Clinic held in Cockfield. In outlying villages, where it was difficult for parents to attend their doctors surgery, or visit a clinic the Medical Officer of Health attended the nearest school in the area, when there were a sufficient number of children to warrant attendance.

In general, parents now appreciate the obvious value of immunisation but they still need reminding of the necessity of having their children immunised at the earliest age possible.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Return for the year.	Age under 5 years.	Age over 5 years.
Number of children resident in the area who received a full course of immunisation during the year.	144	158
Estimated percentage of child population who were considered immunised at the 31st December, 1944.	35%	74%

HOUSING. During the year two pairs of four bedroon type agricultural cottages were built and occupied at Ingleton.

These were erected under the Ministry of Health's Scheme of 3,000 agricultural cottages for the whole oountry.

The situation as regards overcrowding oannot at present be estimated owing to the unsettled conditions oreated by the War.

For the immediate post-war period a quota of 58 houses for the first two post-war years, was allocated to the Council, by the Ministry. This number is, of course, quite inadequate to meet the needs of the District. The Surveyor was, however, instructed by the Council to present a further case to the Ministry of Health for an additional 142 houses.

Distribution of 58 houses already sanctioned for the Area

Parish	Number of Houses Allocated
Evenwood	28
Etherley	16
Hamsterley	6
Copley	4
Butterknowle	4
Total	58

WATER SUPPLIES. Supplies from the Tees Valley Water Board and the Durham County Water Board were satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality. Those undertakings supply the greater portions of the Southern and Northern parts of the District.

Referring to the Council's undertakings, a oomprhensive Scheme is being considered for the supplying of water to all areas at present without supplies, and augmenting supplies to those areas at present subject to seasonal fluctuations of the rainfall.

Statement as to the Number of Dwelling Houses in the Area Supplied with a piped Water-Supply.

A. Total number of houses in the Area	5,267
B. (1) Number of houses having a piped water supply under pressure into or onto the house.	3,757
(ii) Number of houses not having a supply as in (i) but which have their curtilage within 100 yards of a water main available for supply	73

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

Many of the Council's Sewage Works are out of date and in a neglected condition. I would stress particularly those at Middleton, Staindrop, Ingleton, Gainford and Winston.

Modernising of all Sewage Works, and the provision of new Works where required, is urgently needed. Schemes, to cover the whole area, are at present under consideration by the Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The scheme for the direct scavenging of the whole district, starting in 1940 with the use of one wagon for one area only, came into full operation in April of this year. With the exception of one small area let by contract (The Mill, Evenwood) all parts of the District are now included in the Council's Scheme.

Number of Wagons. 6. Number of full-time employees 13.

Premises cleansed, including Camps. 5119

Number of Garages 5 (2 owned by the Council, 3 rented)

Scavenging Areas 6.

MILK PRODUCTION. There are over 800 dairy farms registered in the District for producing milk or butter. During the year there were 78 producers in the area holding designated licences of which 29 produced T.T. milk and 49 produced accredited milk. There was an increase of 7 in the holders of T.T. licences, compared with the previous year. Visits of inspection under the Milk & Dairies Orders were made by the Sanitary Inspector's department and samples were taken in a number of cases.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES (SCABIES ORDER 1941)

The arrangements made for the treatment of cases of Scabies at the Bishop Auckland Centre in North Bondgate, and at the Barnard Castle Cleansing Station, Dunelm Square, were continued throughout the year.

	No. of Persons treated.	No. of Families involved	Total No. of Treatments
Bishop Auckland Centre.	80	44	152
Barnard Castle Centre	2	1	4

TREATMENT OF SCABIES (CONTINUED)

Distribution of Cases.

Cockfield	21	cases	involving	17	families
Evenwood	23	"	"	15	"
Butterknowle	12	"	"	6	"
Bildershaw	4	"	"	3	"

The remaining cases came from Woodland, Staindrop and Ingleton.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The following figures of the number of persons billeted or housed by the Local Authority during the year 1944, have been kindly supplied by the Chief Billeting Officer.

	At 1st January 1944	At 31st December 1944.
Teachers	None	None
Helpers	3	3
Aged	4	9
Mothers and Accompanied Children	68	95
Unacoompanied Children	91	43
	166	150

EMERGENCY HOSTEL AND SICK BAY

During the year 13 unaccompanied evacuee children, comprising 7 boys and 6 girls were admitted to the sick-bay and hostel.

Analysis of Cases Admitted

Disease or Defect	Number
Enuresis	2
Eczema	1
Convalescent	3
Scabies	1

Two children were admitted for a period of 5 weeks under the arrangement agreed to by the Council, with the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Family Association.

Four London Evacuees, whose Mother was in hospital, were admitted for a period of 5 weeks.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Throughout the year conditions remained quiet in the area, and no incidents were recorded.

The Mobile First Aid Unit, stationed in Barnard Castle, was disbanded in October.

INFANT WELFARE AND SCHOOL CLINICS.

As in previous years, infant welfare clinics were held at monthly intervals in Cockfield, Butterknowle, Staindrop and Middleton-in-Teesdale. Fortnightly clinics were also held in Barnard Castle. Weekly temporary school clinics were also held in Butterknowle Council School and Evenwood Church of England School. These clinics are administered by the County Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year by the Sanitary Inspector's Department :-

Classification.	Number of Visits	Classification	Number of Visits.
Nuisances	185	Milk & Dairies	117
Housing	323	Verminous Premises	9
Scavenging	741	Food Supplies	72
Water Supply	28	Dangerous Buildings	23
Drainage	47	Others	231
Sanitary Accomodation	556		
Total	2, 332.		

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

Public Health Acts:		Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	No. of Formal Notices by Order of Authority	No. of Nuisances Abated after Notice
Dwelling Houses & Schools	Foul conditions	1	1	1
	Structural defects	97	10	90
	Overcrowding	-	-	-
Lodging Houses		-	-	-
Dairies & Milk Shops		30	-	26
Cowsheds		27	-	27
Bakehouses		-	-	-
Slaughter Houses		2	-	2
Ash-pits & Privies		290	-	207
Deposits of Refuse & Manure		3	-	3
Water-Closets		-	1	1
Defective Yard Paving		-	-	-
House Drainage	Defective Traps	2	-	2
	No disconnection from Sewers	-	-	-
	Other faults	20	-	17
Water Supply		-	1	-
Pigsties		-	-	-
Animals Improperly Kept		1	1	-

SUMMARY OR NOTICES SERVED (CONTINUED)

Public Health Acts:	Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	No. of Formal Notices by Order of Authority	No. of Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Offensive Trades	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances	2	-	2
Other Nuisances	33	-	26
Dangerous Buildings	-	3	3
Dairymen (Non-Registration)	-	-	-
Temporary Dwellings	-	1	1

Water Food & Drugs.

Samples of Water Taken for Analysis	4
Samples of Food & Drugs taken for Analysis	-

Precautions against Infectious Diseases

Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or destroyed	4
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases	32

General

Ash Privies converted into Water-Closets.	12
Ash-Closets converted into Water-Closets.	-
Total Number of Water-closets in District	1287
Total Number of Ash Closets in District.	2693
Total Number of Ash-pit Privies in District	1038